

## CLAIMS

1. Use of natural zein for improving the condition of hair.
2. Use according to Claim 1, for hardening, strengthening, restructuring, repairing or stabilizing hair or for increasing the luster, volume or combability of hair.
3. Use according to Claim 1 or 2 on weakened and/or damaged hair.
4. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the agent is brought in contact with the hair during or after exposure of the hair to chemical and/or physical noxae.
5. Use according to Claim 4 in a pretreatment agent before a chemical and/or physical treatment of hair.
6. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 5 to protect from damage, or reduce damage to, the internal structure of hair or to repair (restructure) hair.
7. Use according to Claim 5, characterized in that the chemical treatment comprises oxidative dyeing, bleaching or permanent deformation.
8. Use according to one of the preceding claims for improving the hair condition of sensitive, brittle and/or fine hair.
9. Use according to one of the preceding claims to increase the volume or the fullness of hair.
10. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the agent contains natural zein in an amount from 0.001 to 20.0 weight percent, based on the total amount.
11. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the agent contains natural zein in an amount from 0.05 to 3.0 weight percent, based on the total amount.
12. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the cosmetic agent is a solution, emulsion, foam, cream or gel.
13. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 12, characterized in that the agent is brought in contact with the hair for a duration of 1 to 60 minutes at a temperature between 20 °C and 60 °C.

14. Permanent wave agent containing
  - (A) natural zein and
  - (B) at least one hair keratin-reducing substance.
15. Agent for oxidative treatment of hair containing
  - (A) natural zein and
  - (B) at least one oxidant.
16. Agent according to Claim 15, characterized in that the oxidant is selected from among potassium bromate, sodium bromate, sodium perborate, dehydroascorbic acid, hydrogen peroxide and urea peroxide.
17. Hair colorant containing
  - (A) natural zein and
  - (B) one or more oxidation dye precursors.